LANCASHIRE SCHOOL FOUNDERS:

FAMOUS FRIENDS of LANCASHIRE BOYS and GIRLS

T. C. Porteus.

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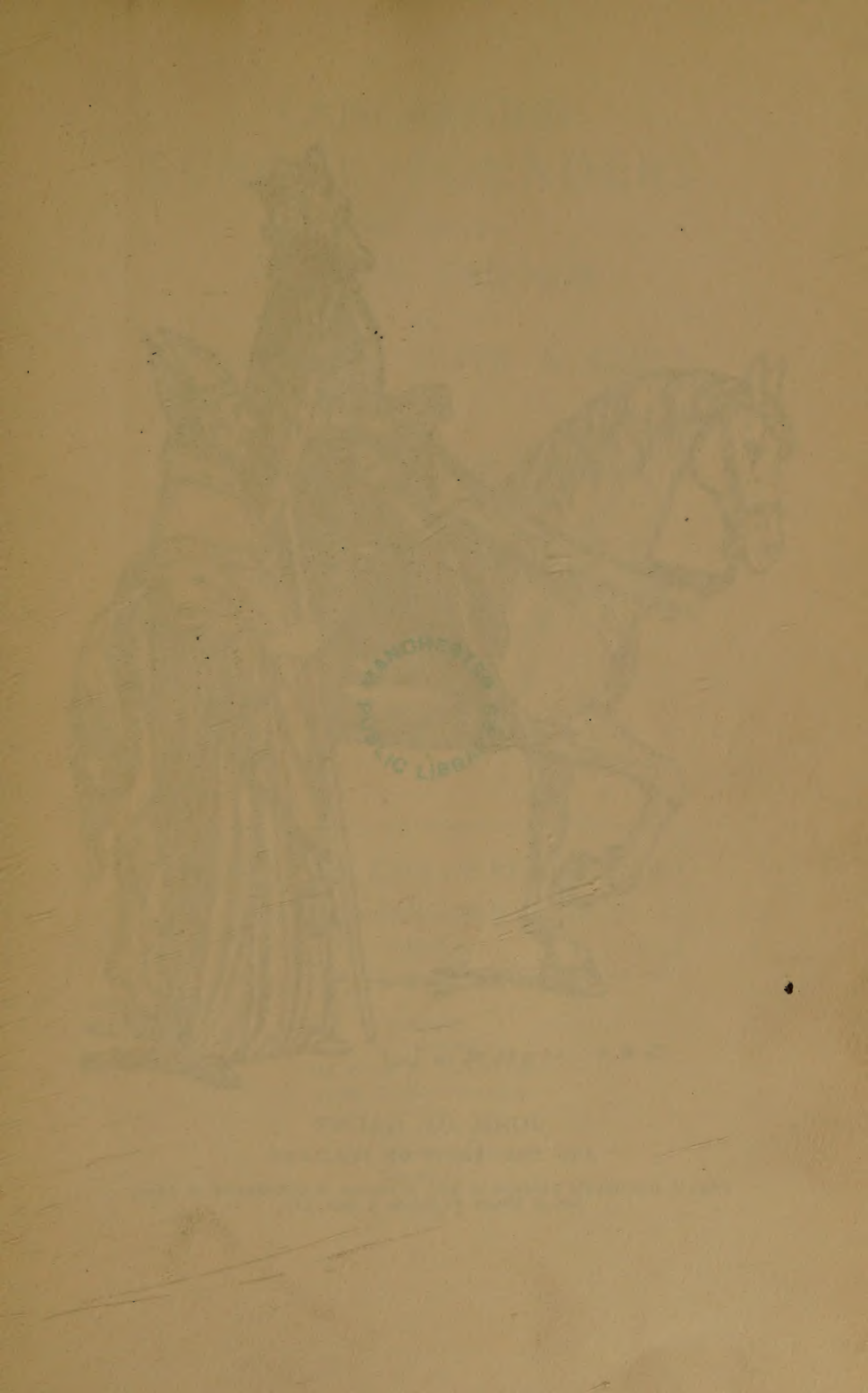

JOHN OF GAUNT

AND THE ABBOT OF WHALLEY

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LANCASHIRE SCHOOL FOUNDERS

and other

FAMOUS FRIENDS

of

LANCASHIRE BOYS & GIRLS

BY

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M.A., B.D., F.R.Hist.S.

Author of "Captain Myles Standish," "Astley Hall," "The Life of James Darlington," "The History of Standish Parish."

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Several Directors of Education and Headmasters have given guidance and encouragement in the preparation of this little book: I am very grateful to them all. Certain things have been omitted, which may possibly be supplied in a further edition, if this attempt to foster gratitude to benefactors, and a tradition of pride in one's school, is favourably received. A larger book would not, at present, serve the same purpose.

For help in various ways I am grateful to the following: Messrs. Harold Sumner, J.P., J. M. Ainscough, J.P., I. Sagar, C.C. (Chairman of No. 14 Area Education Committee), A. J. Hawkes, F.S.A. (Wigan Borough Librarian), O. Gillett, C.C., E. J. Bonnor, M.A. (Headmaster of Rivington Grammar School), Dr. Mumford of Manchester Grammar School, and, last but not least, to W. J. Sandiford, the printer of this book.

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A DREAM PAGEANT

IN recent years there has been a revival of pageantry. Every now and then one of our grey towns blossoms into colour; and the streets are gay with arches and flags. Presently, to the sound of pealing trumpets, a gallant company passes by, a company of great lords and ladies of long ago. Then, either within-doors or without, there are dramatic scenes, to celebrate the coming of a charter or the fame of some local hero.

What a pageant there might be of the Friends of Young Lancashire! First there should come boys and girls, in the bright and varied costume of all the centuries, bearing garlands and flowers. Then the School Founders and Benefactors. Among them there should be a group of Kings and Queens; and borne in front of these a banner with the legend, *Noblesse oblige* (Rank implies duty). Next there should follow a company of Bishops and Clergy, with the motto, *Pasce agnos meos*, which may be interpreted, Care for the boys and girls. Merchants and Craftsmen should follow, and witness that "Riches are for spending, and spending for honour and good actions." Then Ministering Women, and Teachers, and Writers, and Reformers. Lastly, the Old Boys and Old Girls.

Such a procession would be full of romantic interest, and a lively commemoration of our debt to the past. Perhaps one day there will be such a pageant, devised by some enterprising school or group of schools. Meanwhile, here is the story of some friends whom we ought to remember. It is a "pageant" in this sense,

that it is a bird's-eye view of a great company, rather than a long account of a few people. They are by no means all famous in the strict sense, but some of them deserve a wider fame. We must know the story of our own school first, if it has a history; then learn something about others. "Little he knows of England who only England knows," applies to schools as well as to countries. For Old Boys and Girls, this book has a special message: "Remember your school, keep in touch with it, befriend it." May your grateful love be strengthened by these examples from the past.

KINGS AND QUEENS

JOHN OF GAUNT

It is fitting that John of Gaunt, Shakespeare's "time-honoured Lancaster," should lead the company of royal founders. His first marriage was to Blanche of Lancaster, whose father's dukedom he afterwards obtained; and he became the ancestor of our Lancastrian Kings. Duke John was a romantic rather than an admirable character. We honour him here, not for his quarrels with the people of London, or for his battles in France and Spain, but because he was the first prince to be associated with a Lancashire school. For in 1372, the year in which he assumed the title King of Castile, he granted permission, by licence, dated from his London palace, the Savoy, to a certain John de Bradley, to open a grammar school (tenir les escoles de gramore) in Croston, which he calls "our ville." The parish school at Croston,

which is known to have existed in 1644, probably grew out of this early foundation. If so, it is one of our oldest Lancashire schools. Only three other schools in the county, those at Lancaster, Clitheroe, and Preston, are mentioned before the year 1372.

DUKE JOHN'S DESCENDANTS

John of Gaunt was ancestor of several distinguished patrons of learning; one of these, Lady Margaret Beaufort, we shall speak of a little later. Among them there is the boy King, Edward the Sixth, whose name is associated, rightly or wrongly, with many schools in England. He gave a benefaction to Whalley Grammar School in 1548.

At Clitheroe, Queen Mary was a benefactress. Clitheroe School existed as early as 1283. Nor did they spare the rod in those days; for a boy called Richard Buck was so much beaten that he left the school. It is noteworthy that his school expenses were being paid by a Knight, Sir Henry Kighley (no doubt the Knight of the Shire who lived at Inskip, ancestor of an Agincourt hero of the name). To this ancient School, King Philip and Queen Mary granted an endowment in 1554.

But, of all the Tudors, Queen Elizabeth is most closely connected with our county schools. Elizabeth had a great love of learning, if we may credit her tutor, Roger Ascham, who says "Beside her perfect readiness in Latin, Italian, French and Spanish, she readeth here now at Windsor more Greek every day than some Prebendaries

of this Church do read Latin in a whole week." Nevertheless, it is rather (as at Blackburn) in the refounding than in the initiation of Lancashire schools that "Gloriana" comes before us. Her school charters include Liverpool (1565), Rivington (1566), Blackburn (1567), Urswick (1585), Hawkshead (1585), Warton (1594), and Heskin (1597). At Middleton (1572), she had more than a nominal share in the refounding of the School, when, as Dean Alexander Nowell indicated, certain payments were real gifts from the Crown, "Her Majesty most graciously and bounteously giving freely £20 yearly for ever, which I would have purchased of Her Majesty."

In Blackburn School, the names of Elizabethan heroes are given to the houses; and in some other schools there is a Queen Elizabeth house.

One other royal friend must be mentioned. In 1851, Victoria, the great and good Queen, directed that the School at Lancaster should be called The Royal Grammar School; and eight years later, the subscription of a hundred guineas, annually given from the Duchy to Lancaster Races, was granted to the School for exhibitions and a prize.

YOUNG JOHN OF GAUNT

Oh, hark, young Lancashire!
  Though John of Gaunt was great,
And rich in gems and proud attire
  With many a fair estate;
If you can think and dream,
  Let none your valour daunt,
You shall be great as he, I deem,
  A nobler John of Gaunt.
The shire from hills to sea
  Is yours by right of birth;
And love your title deed shall be;
  Your charter, native worth.

To you, young John of Gaunt,
  Yon castle on the height,
With all its fair domain, I grant,
  And all its storied might.
A symbol it shall stand
  Of this, your brave employ,
To guard the good things of the land
  From him who would destroy.
The Red Rose you shall wear;
  And hear in every street
The Minden drums, the banner bear
  That never knows defeat.

Oh, hark, young John of Gaunt!
  A great thing have I planned:
To make you—'tis no idle vaunt—
  The warden of the land.
The fair hills you shall know,
  The rivers, every one,
The lovely trees, the flowers that blow,
  The old roads, how they run.
Grey spires with lichened wall,
  The towns like stars that shine:
Oh, you shall love and guard them all,
  They shall be yours and mine.

BISHOPS AND CLERGY

CARDINAL LANGLEY

Foremost among the second group of Friends is one who wears the red hat and gown of a cardinal. Thomas Langley was born at Middleton near Manchester. He became Bishop of Durham ; and at one time counted John of Gaunt among his friends. In 1412 he rebuilt Middleton Church, making it " of wondrous beauty both in stonework and roof." At the same time he founded a free grammar school in that Church. A little later he instituted a school at Durham.

Three archbishops had a share in founding local schools. Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury, endowed a school at Rochdale, where he held the revenues of the rectory, in 1565. He had previously founded a school at Stoke in Suffolk. Edwin Sandys, Archbishop of York, gave a school in 1585 to Hawkshead, his native place. This afterwards became Wordsworth's school ; and the poet describes in *The Prelude* the happy days he passed with his school friends. Matthew Hutton, afterwards Archbishop of York, built a grammar school at Warton in 1594. On the old school building there was inscribed, *Deo et bonis literis* (To God and good learning).

Harking back a little, it is pleasing to find William Smith, who like Bishop Oldham was befriended by Lady Margaret, and became in turn Bishop of Lichfield and of Lincoln, providing endowment in 1507 for a school at Farnworth, in the locality where he was born. This is now merged in Widnes School. The love of their

native place was strong in all these bishops. A little later, Bishop William Smith, together with Richard Sutton, founded the famous College, Brasenose, Oxford. He also instituted a scholarship at Oriel College. He was of the same family as Captain John Smith of Virginia.

HUGH OLDHAM, BISHOP OF EXETER

The founder of Manchester Grammar School, 1515, was a protégé of Lady Margaret Beaufort, and at one time her chaplain. As a Lancashire boy himself (probably son of Richard Oldham of Ancoats), and a former grammar school master at Lichfield, he was concerned about the lads of his native county. He believed that they had a " pregnant wit," that is a quick mind, but had suffered from lack of teachers. Bishop Oldham had great faith in education, and was convinced that " bringing up children in learning, virtue, and good manners, would be the way to have good people " in the county. He endowed the school, and made provision for a school library. Together with his friend, Bishop Fox of Winchester, he founded Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where there is a statue of Oldham ; and, in appreciation of his bounty, one of the fellows must always be a Lancashire man.

TAKE THE SALUTE

Now for your faith, for your noble befriending,
You who took thought for us, good Bishop Hugh,
We of the School, of the host never-ending,
Greet you, and render the reverence due.
Come from your converse with scholars and sages,
See of your planting the blossom and fruit;
Now from the ends of the earth, from the ages,
Gallant adventurer, Take the Salute!

Lancashire lads, so you said, and you know it,
They have the wit, if a chance be supplied,
Manchester! Manchester! Come let us show it!
Here is a trust that must ne'er be belied.
Now in our lessons and games, and tomorrow,
Out in the world with its battle and bruit,
We shall remember, in joy or in sorrow;
Founder and challenger, Take the Salute!

Lengthens the chain that shall never be broken;
Strengthens the zeal you were first to inspire;
Love for the School finding token on token,
They who are warmed bringing food for the fire.
Now, for the ranks of the dead and the living,
Yea, for the legions who follow in suit,
Here, with her homage, her love and thanksgiving,
Manchester honours you. Take the Salute!

HUGH OLDHAM, Bishop of Exeter,
Founder of Manchester Grammar School
(Drawn by Joseph Fairhurst)

JAMES PILKINGTON,
BISHOP OF DURHAM.

Few founders had a more adventurous life than this Lancashire lad. He was a son of Richard Pilkington of Rivington, whose wife Alice Asshaw, came from Hall o' th' Hill, Heath Charnock. In four changeful reigns his lot was cast. When the monasteries were dissolved, he was a youth at St. John's College, Cambridge. As a reformer, he fled to the Continent when Queen Mary came to the throne, and returned when she died. He had lectured on the Bible when abroad at Geneva and various places, and now joined with Parker, Sandys, and others in revising the Prayer Book. Preaching at St. Paul's Cross in 1560, he spoke in favour of aiding scholars at the Universities, and of increasing the incomes of the Clergy.

In 1561 he became Bishop of Durham, but eight years afterwards he was driven from his see for a time, when the Northern Earls revolted against Elizabeth. It is said that he and his family fled disguised as beggars. The Bishop helped to found a school at Darlington; and in 1566 obtained a foundation charter from the Queen for his new Grammar School at Rivington. The School must have speedily won for itself a good name, since the sons of gentry came from far and near. In 1575-6 the scholars included a son of Sir Richard Shireburn of Stonyhurst, two sons of Edward Norris of Speke, and sons of Thomas Standish of Duxbury.

Bishop Pilkington died in 1575; he left his books partly to Rivington School, and partly to libraries at Cambridge.

Several aspects of the man himself are reflected in the remarkable statutes which he drew up for the school. He was a worker; and his own tireless energy is expressed in the long hours (6-0 a.m. to 6-0 p.m. from Easter to Michaelmas), the short holidays (10 days at Midsummer, 10 at Michaelmas, 16 at Christmas, 12 at Easter), and the strenuous daily programme.

He was a scholar. As Professor of Divinity he had been a pioneer in reviving Greek study; and the statutes contain a notable classical curriculum. Latin is to be spoken in School; and stress is laid on oral instruction. The Dialogues of Erasmus and those of Petrarch are recommended; then Terence, the Epistles of Ovid, the Odes of Horace. Then Greek may be commenced, with Isocrates and Euripides and other texts.

The moralist and disciplinarian, are, of course, to the forefront in the statutes. There are rules for governors, master, usher, scholars. There are rules for speech and dress (shoes, coats and hose), for manners, studies, sports; and penalties in great plenty. If the offences provided against (of ale-house haunters, brawlers, and the rest) were really committed by young scholars, it is not a flattering picture of the times.

The Bishop's concern for religion is also very evident. We may not like his methods; but his ideal—of a day beginning and ending with prayer, a day of hard work, with a breathing-time for innocent play (here archery is recommended)—was sound. Prayers are provided for morning and evening; also for before meals and after dinner. Morning devotions include the 25th

Psalm and the Creed; evening prayers are supplemented by the Commandments (with self-examination) and the 51st Psalm.

The only known portrait of Bishop Pilkington is that in the curious Pilkington Family painting, now preserved at the School. There is a fine window to his memory in the School Chapel.

Rivington Grammar School was united in 1873 with Blackrod School (founded in 1568 by John Holmes, citizen and weaver of London); and, while the old building at Rivington was retained for elementary education, the existing Grammar School was erected on a new site.

RIVINGTON SCHOOL SONG

On Rivington, the beacon fire
Flashed forth in days of danger,
To bid the brave in patriot ire
Arise, repel the hostile stranger.
Await the sign, then boldly stand
For altar, home, and native land!—
From town to town the word would run:
Look up, look up, to Rivington!

All hail the Founder, and the light
He kindled for our guiding,
The School upon the self-same height
To be a beacon long abiding,
A lamp of peace, a radiant star
To lead and beckon from afar.
Maintain the light long since begun:
Look up, look up, to Rivington!

So from the uplands, strong and wise,
Go forth, O sons and daughters;
Lift to the hills your loving eyes
From furthest shores and widest waters.
In fond remembrance still shall gleam
To loyal hearts, with cheering beam,
The beacon School; till time be run,
Look up, look up to Rivington!

BISHOP PILKINGTON

Founder of Rivington Grammar School.

DEAN NOWELL

Benefactor to Middleton and Founder of Scholarships.

REV. RICHARD PERRYN

The Rector of Standish, 1779—1825, may illustrate the help given to boys and girls by many parish clergymen, whose work is sometimes forgotten, and can only be discovered by research. Richard Perryn was a son of the Rt. Hon. Sir Richard Perryn, one of the Barons of the Exchequer. It is not easy to say how much is owing to Mr. Perryn himself, and how much to the Lady Bountiful (Miss Smalley of Standish, afterwards to be mentioned) whose almoner he became. There were four schools that he helped from her fortune, Billington, Blackburn Girls' Charity, Standish Grammar, and Standish Girls', of these the two latter were certainly the recipients both of financial aid and of wise direction from the Rector. He was a trustee of Standish Grammar School, and preserved some of its records. The idea of founding the Girls' School was no doubt due to him. He drew up the scheme of instruction, which included spinning. He also mentions the building of the first school in Shevington in 1814. Messrs Leigh of Chorley gave the site, and Mr. Perryn witnessed his own son's taking possession of the land for the trustees. Further, a tablet on a building at Adlington records that it was erected in 1815 "for pious and useful learning." The inscription ends with R.P.R. (for Richard Perryn, Rector). These two schools were built by subscription, but owed much, we may be sure, to him. He was thus a benefactor to six schools. The manuscript books that he has left reveal his great and varied activity, especially his care for the Church fabric, and his zeal in planting trees.*

* See Porteus : History of Standish, for an account of this Rector.

THE TREE PLANTER

In days when George the Third was King,
And flags were gay and bells did ring
  If Nelson sank the ships of France,
  Or Wellesley led his foes a dance;

Good Rector Perryn, kind and sage,
Who ruled at Standish parsonage,
  In gown and bands and peruke grey,
  Would plant a tree to mark the day.

Stranger still, if news was bad,
This was the joy his reverence had:
  Cheerly to Gardener John he spoke,
  "Come along, lad, put in an oak."

Quince and nectarine; pine and plane;
In the pleasance; adown the lane;
  Cedar and alder; timber, fruit:
  Each event he had one to suit.

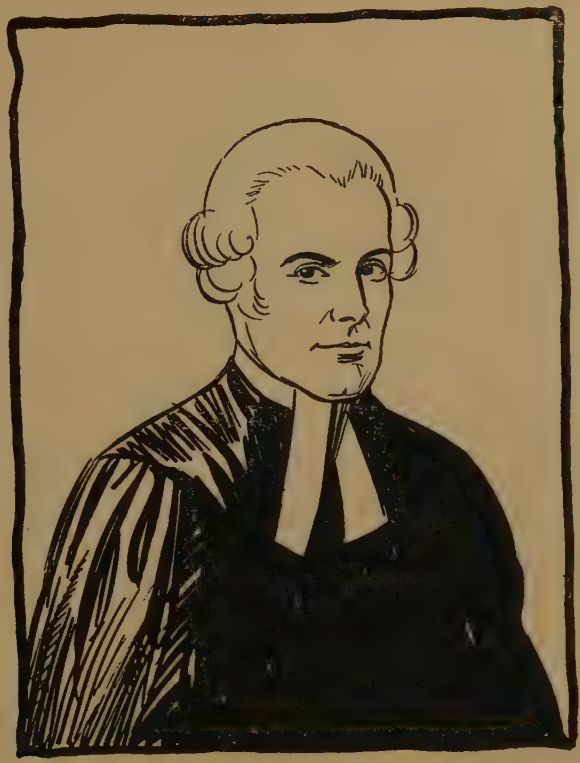
"Sir," said John, "it's little worth
To us; who'll soon be laid in earth,
  Ere fruit be ripe, or timber grown.
  Others will reap what we have sown."

"Somebody sowed for us, friend John,"
Quoth he, with a smile; "and when we're gone,
  The good we plant with generous spade
  Will yield our children fruit and shade."

To all he spoke with courtly grace,
"Let's leave the world a lovelier place.
  Here and there, if a gap you see,
  Follow my lead, put in a tree."

Miss Smalley, of Standish

A Benefactress to Four Schools.



Rev. Richard Perryn, Rector of Standish

A Benefactor to Six Schools.

MERCHANTS

SIR JAMES PEMBERTON

Heskin Grammar School was founded in 1597 by the son of a local yeoman. He had migrated to London and prospered there. He became Prime Warden of the Goldsmith's Company in 1601, and was afterwards (1602-3) Sheriff, and in 1611-12 Lord Mayor of London. He was knighted by James the First in 1603, and died in 1613. By his will he left £500 to the poor children in the London school called Christ's Hospital, and gave an annuity of £50 to Heskin School.

Sir James Pemberton's bounty illustrates the help to education rendered by merchants and craftsmen, and shows how, in Tudor and Stuart times, the City Companies attracted apprentices from the North. Lancashire gave her living wealth, her sturdy sons, to London; and received much material reward. For these migrants prospered, and remembered their native places. One favourite form of benefaction was to bestow some piece of plate upon the Church of their parish, another was to assist the School.

It has already been noted that Blackrod School was founded in 1568 by John Holmes, citizen and weaver of London. He made provision also for an exhibition at Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, and left money for a stone steeple at Blackrod Church.

Lancaster School, a schoolmaster of which is mentioned in the 13th century (1284), had the gift of a water-mill as endowment in 1469 (from John Gardyner, a burgess). It profited also by the bounty of Randal Carter, citizen and tallow-chandler of London in 1615.

Similarly, help from London came to Wigan School (existing in 1596); for in 1618 Hugh Bullock, citizen and haberdasher of London, left a house in Thame Street, London, called The Chalice and the Shepherd, for the maintenance of a schoolmaster at Wigan. He had already, while he lived, given a hundred pounds to buy hemp and flax, to provide work for the Wigan poor.

About the same time, John Harrison founded the Merchant Tailors' School at Great Crosby. Robert Lever, citizen and clothier of London, befriended Bolton School in 1642; and Henry Colborne, scrivener, was a benefactor to Kirkham School in 1655. These were all natives of Lancashire who had prospered in London.

THE LANCASHIRE WHITTINGTON

(SIR JAMES PEMBERTON)

Tune: "The Poacher"

There was a jolly farmer's son
Went forth to make his name;
So he set out from Lancashire
And soon to London came;
To learn the goldsmith's lovely art,
And win enduring fame.

Oh when I go down to London town,
I love the country still;
For 'tis my delight from morn till night
At Heskin on the hill.

He fashioned many a pretty thing,
And gained such high renown,
They made this plucky Lanky lad
Lord Mayor of London town;
It was a joy to see him clad
In gold and scarlet gown.

Oh, London town is fair and bright!
And yet I will be bound
That when those ample aldermen
Were sitting all around,
He sighed for many a country sight
And many a country sound.

Oh, broad and busy is the Thames!
And yet Sir James was fain
To see the little Sydbrook run
Beside the quiet lane;
And climb the slopes of Harrock Hill,
And be a boy again.

The lovely schools of London town
With pleasure he espied;
His native hill had ne'er a one
To be its joy and pride;
So gold he gave with right good will
To have the lack supplied.

Then all you lads so fond of fun,
And rosy maidens too,
Think kindly still of Pemberton;
For he remembered you,
And for his native country kept
A loyal heart and true.

Then here's a health to young and old,
A health to dark and fair;
And never sigh for high estate,
For wealth brings many a care;
But if you find a crock of gold,
Just give the School a share!

HUMPHREY CHETHAM

"Amid the multitudinous stir of money-getting," as one has put it, stands Chetham's Hospital, a reminder that one of the first notable merchants of Manchester was a benefactor to the city. Before his death in 1653, Humphrey Chetham had tried to buy the quaint old baronial hall, which we associate with his name; but already he was paying for the keep and schooling of a number of poor boys. Ford Madox Brown has portrayed Chetham's "Dream" on one of the frescoes in the Town Hall. After his death his dream was fulfilled, for he left money to buy the College, and to establish a library. Well might Thomas Fuller say of him, "God send us more such men."

MASTER HUMPHREY'S BOYS

(CHETHAM'S HOSPITAL, MANCHESTER)

Where barons bold, of Norman race,
  Were wont to rule the board,
Another sits in Grelley's place:
  The Blue Coat boy is lord!
We fill the halls with busy stir,
  The quad with jolly noise,
And Manchester goes merrier,
  For Master Humphrey's boys.

Good Master Humphrey—heart of gold!—
  He dreamt to make us great,
To house us where the knights of old
  Maintained their pomp and state.
O bounteous host! O happy guest,
  Who such a gift enjoys;
Let gallant thoughts inspire your breast,
  O Master Humphrey's boys!

HUMPHREY CHETHAM
(Drawn by Joseph Fairhurst)

In starry days of old romance,
They left the sally port;
They rode the borders, strove with France,
Won fame at Agincourt.
And we, when we have done our drill,
Go forth, the School's envoys;
High deeds await our strength and skill,
O Master Humphrey's boys.

The faces of the good and wise
Look from the panelled wall,
Our founder smiles with kindly eyes—
The happiest of all.
He sees our work, well-done or ill,
He shares our hopes and joys.
Arise, his splendid dream fulfil,
O Master Humphrey's boys!

BRYAN BLUNDELL

Captain Bryan Blundell, founder of Liverpool Bluecoat School, 1708, was a master mariner of Liverpool, whose sympathy for the friendless was fostered by his own experience, for he was left fatherless in early boyhood. There is a tradition that once when Blundell had brought his ship laden with costly merchandise safely to port, through a dangerous storm, his glance fell on the children standing idly by the harbour. "God has been good to me," said he, "and I will be good to them." He entrusted the School to the care of the Rector, Rev. Robert Stythe, and went back to sea, hoping, as he put it, to give something to the School out of every voyage. The Bluecoat School grew until it became the leading charity of Liverpool; and the great sum raised in 1926 to purchase the old building indicates the warm place which the institution has won in the hearts of Liverpool people.

THE LIGHTSHIP

(LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT HOSPITAL)

When Captain Blundell bold
  Went sailing, east and west,
Like Noah's dove of old,
  His bark had little rest.
His cargoes changing into gold,
He sowed, and reaped a hundredfold,
  Across the fruitful sea,
  The kind, adventurous sea.

Once, when the tempest roared,
  Brave Blundell and his men
Had sunk with all aboard,
  Nor sighted home again;
But through the darkness far away,
The lightship flung her guiding ray
  Across the heaving sea,
  The fierce, tumultuous sea.

In Mersey safe and sound
  With thankful hearts they lay.
Here, idly all around,
  He sees the children play:
No school, no guiding light is theirs
To lead these youthful voyagers,
  Just starting out to sea,
  The dark, alluring sea.

And lo, a purpose kind,
A dream to be fulfilled,
Takes form within his mind,
A goodly school to build;
To save from perils of the deep,
And, like a lightship, vigil keep
O'er life's uncharted sea,
The dim, mysterious sea.

And still his "Lightship" stands
To guide and to befriend;
And lo! from many lands
The old boys greeting send:
"In bitterest gale, in blackest night,
"We see afar her friendly light,
Across the mighty sea,
The dread, the splendid sea!"

JAMES BAINES OF POULTON

Two centuries ago, Poulton in the Fylde was a thriving port. One of its inhabitants, James Baines, having made a fortune out of the woollen trade, and apparently, also out of a sort of banking business, considered how to spend it most wisely. He bought sites, and had schools built at three different places, Hardhorn-with-Newton, Thornton, and Marton. By his will, in 1717, he remembered his relatives, gave a benefaction to Poulton Church, left £800 to pay the premiums of poor apprentices, and provided endowment for his three schools. The property left for Marton School included a smithy where a blacksmith was at work. Here children coming home from school would not only be able to look in at the open door, and laugh to see the flying sparks, as Longfellow tells us in his poem about the blacksmith; but they would be proud to know that it was Marton School Smithy.

James Baines stipulated that any master appointed at his schools should enter into a bond with sureties that he would live soberly and decently and diligently. He was shrewd enough to see the importance of a good dictionary; and made it binding on his trustees to provide constantly in each of the three schools, the best school dictionary in use at Grammar Schools. The three schools still exist; and the one at Hardhorn has become Baines's Grammar School, Poulton. Thus we see "what the bounty of James Baines has meant to succeeding generations of the youth in this corner of the Fylde."*

* See A. G. Pagett: History of James Baines's Grammar School.

MINISTERING WOMEN

LADY MARGARET

In a window of Liverpool Cathedral there is a medallion inscribed to "Lady Margaret Beaufort and all Patronesses of Sacred Learning," This devout and bountiful lady was the mother of Henry, Earl of Richmond (Henry VII), her only child. Her later marriage to Lord Stanley, afterwards Earl of Derby, was a link with Lancashire. A founder herself—of Christ's and St. John's Colleges, Cambridge, and of the Lady Margaret Professorships of Divinity—she was the patroness of founders. Bishop Hugh Oldham, who gave the Grammar School to Manchester, and his friend, Bishop William Smith, who founded Farnworth (afterwards Widnes) School, were educated in her household.

A little incident illustrates her kindliness of disposition. One day when she was at Christ's College, a student in disgrace was forcibly dragged past the windows on his way to punishment. "Lente, lente!" she exclaimed; and one biographer opines that by this expostulation, "more suited to academic ears than an intercession in English," she secured a pardon for the young scholar.

She died in 1509, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. Her memorial has been called the most beautiful and venerable figure that the Abbey contains. "Everyone that knew her loved her, and everything that she said or did became her."

LADY MARGARET

O poets all, take heed I pray,
Your songs like blossoms pass away;
And this is why you waste your breath,
You praise a charm that perisheth.
But I may win a borrowed fame,
Who wake the music of her name:
Its lovely echoes linger yet—
I praise the Lady Margaret.

Blesséd who hunger after truth;
Thrice blesséd they who give to youth
The bread—the book, the teacher rare.
She rises from her place of prayer
To answer prayer. She is the Queen
And Pearl of founders all, I ween.
Can one she smiled on e'er forget
The bounteous Lady Margaret?

O noble love that overflows
The ties of kinship, and foreknows
The needs, and shapes the destiny
Of England's sons in years to be.
One babe she folded to her breast;
A thousand rise to call her blest,
With filial love, in filial debt,
True mother, Lady Margaret.

The book of truth from age to age
Unfolds; fresh fingers turn the page;
New teachers rise and statesmen lead;
New voices from the rostrum plead.
In all she bears a part; the while
She watches with her grave sweet smile
Each harvest from the grain she set,
Give thanks for Lady Margaret.

LADY MARGARET BEAUFORT

(Drawn by Joseph Fairhurst)

At Widnes and at Manchester
They laud their founders; but to her
The bishops twain would yield the praise.
They were her "boys," she lit the blaze
Of that high torch she handed on,
We bear it from the ages gone;
We pass it burning brightly yet,
The light of Lady Margaret.

ISABEL BIRLEY OF KIRKHAM

The help that comes from unlikely quarters is illustrated by an incident in the history of Kirkham School. Isabel Birley, an ale-house keeper at Kirkham, was much distressed because the local school, though founded long before her time, was not sufficient for the needs of the place. She began to save money to build a school; and at last, one day in 1621, she entered a room where the leaders of the Parish were met in conclave, with a number of gold coins in her apron, about £30 in all. Pouring out the money on a table, she begged them to make her savings the nucleus of a fund for the provision of a school. Impressed by her earnestness, the parishioners set to work and collected more money so that the school was soon built.

MARY LANGTON AND MARY SMALLEY

The Free Grammar School for boys at Standish, Lancashire, was founded by Mrs. Mary Langton of Hall o' th' Hill, Heath Charnock, in 1604. Nearly two centuries afterwards, the

Girls' School was also the outcome of a woman's generosity. Miss Mary Smalley, niece of one of the rectors, founded a School of Pious Learning and Useful Industry for twenty girls; which began in 1797, and is now merged in the National Schools. The girls had a special pew in Standish Church. They wore uniforms of brown Coburg frocks with tippets, poke bonnets, worsted stockings (knitted by themselves), and Blucher buckled shoes. They were taught to spin, and to wind thread for the weaving done in their homes. The first mistress was named Dolly; so, ever after, the girls were known as "Dolly's Chickens." When leaving school, each girl was presented with a guinea and a Bible.

Miss Mary Smalley made the rector of Standish, Rev. Richard Perryn, her almoner, and either directly or through him, was a generous benefactress. She gave charities for the poor of Standish, and of Over Darwen. Four schools at least profited by her bounty, the Girls' School at Standish, as already mentioned, and the Boys' Grammar School, to which she gave £200 to increase the endowment for the usher, and left £270 towards the building of a house for the master. In addition, Billington School, and Blackburn Girls' Charity School were assisted out of her fortune.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOL GOES TO CHURCH

STANDISH BELLS

When Standish bells ring sweet and clear,
  In changeful octaves pealing,
From fairy portals, far and near,
  The folk of other days come stealing;
In armour bright or silken sheen,
In perriwig and crinoline.
  Both man and maid of byegone times,
  They come, when call those mellow chimes.

Amid the ghosts of long ago,
  In daydreams oft returning,
Two dames—they come for this I trow—
  Smile on the scholars at their learning.
The foundresses! They love to spend
An hour in chat, as friend with friend.
  Oh, hush! I hear them whisper low:
  "Dear heart! how great our schools do grow."

And in my dreams it doth befall,
  When Standish bells are pealing,
That Time hath gently laid on all
  These olden folk his hand of healing.
The squires were men of lofty mind—
Or so it seems—their ladies kind;
  And lad and lass of Standish birth
  From hall or cot, the salt of earth.

O bells that bid these dreams arise,
  Ring in a better morrow!
Bear from the past its teaching wise,
  Without its legacy of sorrow.
And so shall dawn a kingdom new,
A nobler time, with men more true.
  High hopes inspire, bright visions bring!—
  Oh, hark, the bells of Standish ring!

FOUNDERS BY JOINT EFFORT

CHORLEY'S CROMWELLIAN SOLDIERS

The Chorley Grammar School was founded in 1611 by combined local effort, all the ratepayers contributing their share; while Robert Charnock of Astley gave six pounds in money, and as much brick as was needed.

In 1648, the officers and the men of Major-General Ralph Assheton's Brigade of Parliamentarian soldiers gave their arrears of pay as a benefaction to the School. According to a tradition, Cromwell rested at Astley Hall in this year, after the battle of Ribble Bridge; and, before this, a troop had been quartered in Chorley. It is suggested that the gift to Chorley School was a return for hospitality.

Several of these officers were men of mark. The commander himself, Ralph Assheton of Middleton, near Manchester, was related to the Asshetons of Whalley, and therefore connected with the Standishes of Duxbury. As a Knight of the Shire in the Long Parliament, he took up its cause with ardour, and fought in many battles. At Ribble Bridge he commanded all the Lancashire forces; and he and his men were highly commended by Cromwell. In temper hasty and imperious, he was by no means complimentary to the other Parliamentary leaders. In 1645, he threatened that if Booth, Holland, and others were to be applauded and listened to, he would stay at home, and withdraw his son also from the war; for said he "I scorn that he should take orders from them." There is a memorial brass to him and his wife at Middleton Church.

Colonel Richard Standish of Duxbury was a soldier of like spirit, brave but impetuous. His ancestors had fought at Agincourt, and won fame in the French and Scottish Wars. Colonel Standish sided with the Parliament, in which his father had represented Preston; but his elder brother had fallen in the King's cause at Manchester in 1642.

Major Edward Robinson (whose son and grandson bore the same name) lived at Higher Buckshaw, a picturesque house at Euxton. In 1643, when Captain of a troop quartered at Chorley, he and his men were captured in a raid by Lord Molyneux, and imprisoned at Lathom House. He probably wrote the racy book called "A Discourse of the War." Standish and Robinson, who were both justices, were the chief promoters of the Soldiers' Gift; and obtained the signatures of their brother officers to the deed of donation.

Union is strength. The combined gifts of the soldiers remind us of the societies and councils who have done jointly what one person could not do. The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, the British and Foreign School Society, the National Society; and, more recently, public bodies, such as the County Council, or Borough Councils, all exemplify this fact.

Moreover, it is more than ever clear that without joint effort of another kind, the "pulling together" of teachers, parents, and scholars, no great success in education can be attained.

WHEN CROMWELL CAME

When Cromwell came to Chorley town
  In the fiery wake of battle,
With a "Rein, boys, rein!" and a "Down,
    boys, down!"
  He drew from the cannon's reek and rattle.
"Now rest," quoth he, "from strife and din,
For I know a house with a fine old bin:
  Good bin! good beef! good beds withal!
  You'll find all three at Astley Hall."

The town was royal all the while;
  But they gave their foes such pleasure
With bite and sup in the Chorley style,
  The Ironsides thanked them out of measure,
In stately words and sterling gold.
"There's hope for the young if not the old,"
  Said they: "we'll pay our guineas down
  For the good of the School of Chorley town."

Our stalwart sires by prudence stirred,
  When danger was their lot, O,
They chose for the town a guiding word;
  "Beware!" they made our civic motto.
By this we mean no idle vaunt,
A guest to fright, a rival taunt,
  But "Be aware the times to mend,
  And turn a foe into a friend!"

Good luck to Chorley, school and home!
  Speed well the games we're playing!
And green grow the Nab whereon we roam;
  Where once the royal deer were straying!
And though we give the passing guest
A kindlier spread, a softer rest,
  He must feast his eyes, whate'er befall,
  On the board and the bed at Astley Hall.

Top Line : Arms of School Founders

Second Line : Arms of Towns and Schools, &c.

T.C.P.

TEACHERS

CHANTRY PRIESTS

While we honour those who raised the outward fabric of our schools, we ought not to forget the teachers; for they help to build the character of their scholars. The first schools were in Churches; and the Chantry Priests, who generally served at a side-altar, where they prayed for the welfare of souls, were among the earliest teachers; as, for instance, at Burnley, Liverpool, Leyland, Preston, and St. Michael's-on-Wyre. These teachers were poorly clad (in rough frieze gown and wooden-soled shoes) and poorly paid; but they won the esteem of their scholars. William Thompson, rector of Ashton-under-Lyne, in the year 1553, left forty shillings with a doublet and jacket to Peter Bower, "my old school-master." Sir Peter Bower was priest at the Rood Chantry in Standish Church.

Preston had one of the earliest schools; as we should expect from the importance of the town. The schoolmaster of Preston is mentioned in 1358; and it is afterwards found that the school was kept by the chaplain at St. Mary's altar in the parish Church.

Lady Ellen (or Helen) Hoghton, whose husband, Sir Henry Hoghton of Hoghton Tower, died in 1479, gave a benefaction to this chantry; and in later times it was regarded as of her foundation. Nicholas Banastre was chaplain and schoolmaster at the dissolution of the chantries in 1548, when it was decided that the school should continue. He was paid 56s. 2d., yearly. Such was the humble beginning of Preston School.

A little oil, however, sometimes prevents a lamp from going out; so these meagre endowments kept a school alive until fresh benefactors arrived. At Leyland the chantry school, founded by Sir Henry Farington of Worden in 1524, at the chapel of St. Nicholas in Leyland Church, received sundry gifts; and was at last, in 1898, united with Balshaw's School. Lucky Leyland scholars, to have St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) for their patron saint! Their later friend, the charitable Richard Balshaw, founded his school on "Golden Hill," a poetical and magical name, savouring almost of the Arabian Nights.

Richard Taylor, the schoolmaster-chaplain at Warrington, deserves to be remembered. The Boteler Grammar School, Warrington, began as a chantry school founded by Sir Thomas Boteler of Bewsey, who had fought at Flodden. He entrusted, in 1520, for the purpose, a hundred marks of gold to John Paslew, the ill-fated Abbot of Whalley, who was one of the first governors of Manchester School; but was executed in 1537 for his part in the Pilgrimage of Grace. A school deed of 1522, to which Richard Taylor was a party (and as schoolmaster perhaps he drew it up), laments the lack of schools in Lancashire, where lads may learn grammar and godliness, that they may be "the very clear lanthorn of good example in virtuous living" to all around.

Better than all his doughty deeds at Flodden was Sir Thomas's benefaction. One pictures the soldier founder, and the chaplain with the taper (for he kindled the first candles of knowledge there), walking side by side down the avenue of

time; and after them an endless company of Warrington scholars bearing aloft their "clear lanterns."

REMARKABLE DOMINEES

Among teachers of later times, perhaps the most tragical figure was the distinguished scholar Edward Denham, headmaster of Preston Grammar School from 1698 to 1704, who afterwards died at Chester Castle while accused of murder. Tim Bobbin (John Collier) was the most comical teacher. He played the flute in an arbour at Milnrow, while the usher taught the boys. Surely the most versatile personality was Thomas Sutton, poet, fisherman, shoemaker, schoolmaster, and for more than thirty years clerk at Formby Chapel, previous to his death in 1738.

The most long-lived teacher was probably Rev. Robert Walker, who was curate of Seathwaite for 67 years. He was immortalised by Wordsworth; and is often described as Wonderful Walker. The living was worth only £5 a year, when he became incumbent in 1736. He lived a life of beautiful simplicity, usefulness and piety. "Within the communion rails of the Church he used to sit, teaching the children of the parish, and spinning for the linen and cloth by which he eked out his scanty living. He died June 25, 1802, in his 93rd year."

One of the best beloved teachers was Charles Lawson, who for 58 years was a master (including 43 as high master), at Manchester Grammar School. When he died in 1807 his former pupils

placed a monument to his memory in Manchester Cathedral. He appears to have been a reformer of school sports; for in his time the cruel custom of cock-shooting was abolished. He substituted a wooden target at the Shrovetide archery, and gave prizes of silver shoe-buckles to the best marksmen. Many stories are told of his kindness of heart, which he concealed under a stern demeanour. Gilbert, who became Bishop of Chichester, relates this dialogue between Lawson and himself.

"Psa, blockhead, where does he go these holidays?"

"Haslingden, sir."

"How does he get there?"

"I should walk, sir."

"Can he ride?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then he shall have the loan of my horse."

A SCHOOL OF SONG

Harking back for a moment to chantry schools, one of these (the forerunner of Blackburn Grammar School) calls for special mention. It was founded by a Stanley, a family always foremost among the friends of Lancashire schools. Thomas Stanley, second Earl of Derby, founded a chantry school at Blackburn Church (now the Cathedral), of a type rare in the county. It was a School of Song; and such foundations were usually at great minsters. Moreover, Lord Stanley and the Church officials in 1514 put music first. If no teacher could be found expert both in music and in grammar, then one might be appointed to teach music only, plain-song, part-song, and descant. In 1546 Thomas Burges, priest of the chantry, was found faithfully doing his duty, and teaching both grammar and plain-song.

GOING TO THE COCK FIGHT
Glimpse of a Cruel School Sport now abolished
(Drawn by Joseph Fairhurst)

THE SINGING MASTER

(BLACKBURN GRAMMAR SCHOOL)

In days of old, when toil was long,
  Our fathers first propounded
In Blackburn town a School of Song,
  By noble Stanley wisely founded.
Come learn to sing! Come learn to sing!
And be as blithe as birds in Spring.
  Here tune your pipe, and then go forth
  To cheer with song the sombre North.

Then oh! what eerie sounds were heard.
  How toiled the tonsured teacher
To turn into a singing bird
  The chirping babe and callow screecher!
To many a crow would he bewail,
"Alas, you are no nightingale!"
  But with what joy would he acclaim
  Some lad of parts who rose to fame.

And so, in time, we make no doubt,
  They learnt their lessons well, sir;
And then they gave their music out,
  At lute, at loom, on moor and fell, sir.
The chancels rang with worthier praise:
"O Blackburn boys, how blithe your lays;
  Blackbirds are ye!" good folk would say;
  So well they sang at work and play.

But oft the Dominee would cry,
  "Sing low, my lad, and sweetly,
Before those florid heights you try,
  Where skill alone can go discreetly."
Now here is counsel sound and strong;
For life is all a School of Song:
  Keep tune, forbear to drown the rest;
  Then pipe, my boys, your level best!

FRIENDS OUT OF SCHOOL

MRS. A. L. BARBAULD (1743-1825)

Anna Letitia Aikin, afterwards Mrs. Barbauld, was a singularly beautiful and clever girl of fifteen when she came to Warrington, where her father was tutor at the Academy. Her gifts were fostered at local literary gatherings; and her poems became very popular. After she left Warrington her influence was remarkable as teacher and writer. She was a pioneer in producing school books that are readable, and even fascinating. She joined with her brother in writing "Evenings at Home," in six parts in 1782-86. This work had a great vogue; and was frequently translated, modernised, and taken as a model for similar works. Her character and gifts won her many eminent friends, including Hannah More, Howard the prison reformer, Sir Walter Scott, and Wordsworth. The last of these said concerning her verses beginning, 'Life!—we've been long together'—"I wish I had written those lines."

A TEACHER OUT OF SCHOOL

(MRS. A. L. BARBAULD)

One olden book, for which we often sought,
And read aloud beside the winter fire,
Was yours, O lady sage, who subtly taught
Enchanted youth with tales that never tire.

"Evenings at home"—the very title speaks
Of happy scenes. The golden lamplight fell
On childhood's laughing eyes and rosy cheeks;
Those eager hearers rapt as by a spell.

Yours was the faery wand that first revealed
The great world's wonders, gave the fancy wings;
Secrets of trees and herbs and stones revealed:
The beauty and the power of common things.

"Eyes and no eyes"—the tale you told of yore
Is true of all you tell. Some will be blind,
And laugh to scorn your older-fashioned lore;
But some will see—a teacher wise and kind.

"Heart, and no heart." For this shall be your lot
In many a home, until life's schooling end,
"No heart" may pass you as a name forgot,
But "Heart" shall hail you still, O children's friend.

HARRISON AINSWORTH (1805-1882)

"He's an idle dog—he will never work." This was the statement of a disappointed father concerning his son, whom he wished to make a lawyer. But when the son found his real vocation, he worked hard enough. The delight that he took in his proper task is seen in the gusto with which he penned the mythical story of Dick Turpin's journey to York. He began in the morning and wrote all day and night; like the highwayman himself, he found it impossible to halt. "Over hill and heath and stream he went without pause, hindrance or fatigue." Harrison Ainsworth's novels dealing with his own county, The Lancashire Witches, Guy Fawkes, The Leaguer of Lathom, Beatrice Tyldesley, Preston Fight, The Manchester Rebels, and Mervyn Clitheroe give an almost continuous picture of Lancashire from the reign of Henry the Eighth down to Ainsworth's own days. The last-mentioned story describes his own experiences as a boy at Manchester Grammar School.

A LANCASHIRE WIZARD
(HARRISON AINSWORTH)

The dusty road adown,
Into the smoky town,
Leaping for very joy,
The wise magician came.
His pipe he plied amain:
Awoke one faery strain
That like a fountain rose,
That trembled like a flame.

Now sweet it was and soft
As lark that sings aloft;
Now wild as outlaw's horn,
Scorning a world of foes.
Then listening youth amazed,
Out of their casements gazed,
Like those at Hamelin,
But happier than those.

For when this piper blew,
Enraptured children knew
No longer mill nor shop,
Looked not through common glass.
The dull street disappeared;
And London's Tower reared,
In northern mists, the gate
Where Kings and Princes pass.

They looked again, and found
Their moors enchanted ground
Where shadowy witches danced.
And still the piper played:
They saw the laughing line
Of Rupert of the Rhine
To Lathom House go by
In glittering cavalcade.

Onward the piper went,
His elfin music spent;
But, in the rustling leaves,
Its echo still abides.
Anon we hear, and then
Glamour comes back again:
Swift, through the startled night—
Beware—Dick Turpin rides!

SIR ROBERT PEEL AND JOHN FIELDEN

One of the darkest chapters in English history concerns the employment of children in mines and factories. It is to a Lancashire man and an employer that we owe the first Act, the forerunner of all factory legislation, for the protection of poor apprentices (1802). The elder Sir Robert Peel (first baronet), brought in this bill; and suggested, in 1815, the first Parliamentary inquiry into factory conditions.

Lancashire children owe a great debt also to John Fielden (1784-1849), an employer of labour at Todmorden, and Member of Parliament for Oldham. He vigorously supported legislation to save the children, and better the lot of factory workers. He was an earnest fellow-worker with the good Earl, Lord Shaftesbury, who paid a high tribute to his services. His friends called him Honest John Fielden; his opponents named him (on account of his persistence) the "self-acting mule." The Ten Hours Factory Act of 1847, limiting the hours of labour for women and young persons, was passed by his efforts. John Fielden's statue, by Foley, erected in 1875 at Todmorden, was subscribed for by the factory workers of Great Britain.

JOHN FIELDEN

I dreamt they kept a holiday on high,
Where all the youthful angels find employ
In happy labour, and increase their joy
By recollection of a grief gone by;
As shadows of the night
Enhance the morn's delight.

For mortal children, in their pageantry,
Assume a cherub's wings; and so, in sport,
Heaven hath its revels of an earthly sort,
But pure from selfishness, from sorrow free.
They put white robes away,
For toil-worn hodden gray.

Lo, in such motley went a joyous choir;
A band of little ones could I divine,
Who once were driven to toil in mill and mine;
They wore their rags for festival attire,
As, at a glorious jest,
Kings in their pride are drest.

Rags that were theirs on earth, when down the blind
And ominous pit ere morning broke they sped;
Or closed in mills a sunless life they led.
Few dared to pity, but a Master kind,
John Fielden, unafraid,
Brought to the captives, aid.

And now in heaven, their knight and comrade still,
A joyous mime with them does he enact.
Within a cage of iron bars compact,
The little band are prisoners at will;
And, with a golden key,
He comes to set them free.

"Kind sir, release us from this evil spell!"
But first he tests their mind with playful words,
"If ye go forth, my little captive birds,
How will you spend your freedom, ill or well?"
"Play, sir, and praise, and learn!"
He gave the key a turn.

"Come birds!" said he, and set the gate ajar;
With gleeful shout ran out the ragged train,
And sang till heaven's white arches rang amain.
I heard their song awake the furthest star,
That shone with brighter gleam.
So died away my dream.

His statue stands at Todmorden, and shall
Long look on busy toil, and school, and home,
And moorlands where the happy children roam,
Happier for him, and round the pedestal
Play prettily; nor know
How much to him they owe.

His was no silver speech; the homely tongue
Of Lancashire sufficed to plead their cause,
And bid the guardians of his country's laws
Restore the broken charter of the young.
He bears, unto the end,
Proud name—the Children's Friend.

He found them sore oppressed and over-driven,
Stood forth their champion in unequal fight.
To play, to learn, to praise—won back their right.
If dreams be true, to him is honour given.
In heaven they pay the debt
That we, too soon, forget.

GIVERS OF BOOKS

HENRY BURY

We infer from the will of Henry Bury, who founded Bury Grammar School in 1625, and died in 1636, that he had been a clergyman and a schoolmaster. He gave 666 books to form a library for ministers, teachers and students; with pictures, globes, and maps, for their "refreshment and delight" To a boy of his own name he left a silver pot with a cover, "when he can read, write, and cast accounts, but not before." Meanwhile it was to be kept by another Henry, "that fine reading boy." Mr. Bury was a lover of music. He gave song books to his Bury Library, and two choice musical MSS. to the Universities. He left legacies to the children of "my good Schoolmaster," who had died 50 years before.

Mr. Bury was a veteran verging on 90 years of age, yet a keen lover of learning. Like his namesake and famous forerunner, Bishop Richard de Bury, the author of *Philobiblion*, he believed that books are the aptest teachers.

Two other noble motives actuated him. Local patriotism is evident in his mention of Bury. He leaves £300 for the maintenance of a Schoolmaster there, "the place where I was born; the place whereat my progenitors were born."

The impulse of gratitude, strong and long-enduring, has already been noticed in his reference to his Schoolmaster. It appears also in his

legacy of £10 to Manchester—"the place of my best education." This was for a town library, provided other books and a building were found, a thing just as possible in Manchester, "that great, rich, and religious town" as in the city of Ipswich. This "Bury" Library at Manchester must have been one of the first free libraries in England.

TO THE GIVERS OF BOOKS

Givers of books be praised!
  For you, from all who read,
Be prayer and paean raised,
  Good friends in human need.
Oft to the lips of youth
  The brimming cup you brought,
When they had starved for truth,
  For beauty vainly sought.

Yours is the magic boat
  We sail, and find afar
In faery seas afloat,
  A new and lovely star.
Yours are the bowers of bloom,
  The sweets whereof we cull,
And bear to many a comb;
  Yet leave your gardens full.

Light to the dark you bring,
  And to the friendless friends;
And crown the poor man king,
  With wealth that never ends.
Wise giver! who bestows
  The cruse that never dries,
Gold that by sharing grows,
  Seed whereof seed shall rise.

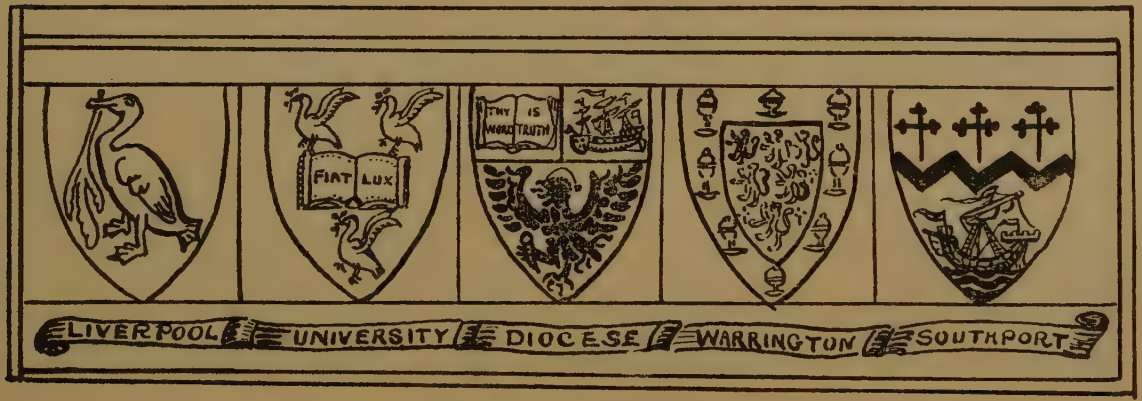
HENRY MASON

A friend of Henry Mason, M.A., B.D., the benefactor to Wigan, used to say of him that one learnt more by an hour's converse with him than from a week's study. This is true of every inspiring teacher. Nevertheless, the written and printed word is well-nigh indispensable; and Henry Mason, whom his friends felt to be better than a book, became a notable donor of books to others.

He was born in Wigan about 1573; entered Brasenose College, Oxford; and became successively chaplain of Corpus Christi College, chaplain to the Bishop of London, and rector of St. Andrew Undershaft, London. On the eve of the Civil War, he was harassed by those opposed to episcopacy in the Church, until he resigned his living about 1641.

He retired to Wigan; and took a keen interest in the welfare of the young. He gave two benefactions to Wigan, for the purpose of helping to pay the premiums of apprentices; and distributed many copies of the Bible among the poor of Wigan. To Wigan Grammar School he left his books; and very learned Latin works some of them were! Wigan School is mentioned in 1596; and no doubt existed before this date. Henry Mason may have been a scholar there; if so, he was a benefactor to his old School. He was an author also; and Wigan Public Library contains a number of his works.

Wigan was once noted for armour-smiths. Those who enrich libraries and schools with gifts of books are true armourers. If "Peace hath her



ARMS OF TOWNS AND SCHOOLS, &c. T.C.P.

victories no less renowned than war," it is such men as Henry Mason, donors of good books, who help to gird us for these triumphs.

THE ARMOURER

Long, long ago, in Wigan town,
  The armour-forge's gleam
Made bright the height with glowing crown,
  And shone in Douglas stream.
And when, with massive iron bars,
  Men stirred those fiery powers,
The smoke ascended to the spars
  Of heaven's aerial towers;
And lo! a host of shooting stars
  Flashed forth and fell in showers.

And there, in Peace and War alike,
  The silver anvils rang;
While, shaping shining blade and pike,
  The swarthy craftsman sang:
"O gather, baron, knight, and squire,
  And gird you for the field;
For here is skill and strength and fire
  To fashion helm and shield.
So take the sword your hearts' desire:
  To no man shall you yield."

Forgotten is the armourer's name!
  His bellows' labouring breath
Is silent; and the forge's flame
  Is quenched and cold in death:
But where his fires were wont to burn,
  Old scenes the fancy fill;
And while we work and play and learn
  Around the fire-crowned hill,
Old echoes of the forge return:
  We hear him singing still.

O armourer, thy wars are past;
  But strife of right and wrong
Goes on, and while the ages last
  The wise will heed thy song.
"Prepare! prepare!" stout heart, chime on;
  Gird us, who take the field:
Give us, where Arthur fought and won,
  Excalibur to wield.
May we for Life's Adventure don
  Thy surest three-fold shield.

OLD BOYS

THE BROTHERS NOWELL

Read Hall near Whalley was the birthplace of several notable brothers, eminent in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Alexander Nowell became Prebendary of Westminster and Headmaster of Westminster School; and was Dean of St. Paul's from 1560 to 1602. The first part of the Church Catechism, including the summary of the two duties, was compiled by him. His brother Robert, Attorney of the Court of Wards, spent much money in charity. He befriended many poor scholars: one of them was Edmund Spenser. He fell sick in 1569, and six hours before his death said to Alexander, his brother: "Forget not Middleton School, and the College of Brasenose, where we were brought up in our youth." The last wishes of Robert Nowell were carried into effect. Middleton Grammar School was refounded; and helpful scholarships for Lancashire boys were instituted.

JOSEPH GRAHAM

Love for one's school has been a powerful incentive, in which Lancashire people have seldom been lacking. The anonymous gift of a fine statue of Humphrey Chetham to Manchester Cathedral, the windows at Blackburn Grammar School, and the benefactions of Joseph Graham to Liverpool Blue Coat Hospital, illustrate various ways in which this splendid devotion has been expressed. Graham's gift is perhaps the most princely of all such benefactions. He founded the Graham Prize Trust at his old school; and, at his death in 1829, left two thousand pounds for the Brotherly Society, a like sum for the general use of the institution, a thousand pounds for the Girls' Provident Fund of the School, and the residue of his estate for the enlargement of the building. We cannot all be Joseph Grahams, or even Isabel Birleys, but we can give what is sometimes better than gold, personal sympathy. And if we really desire to help, love will find out a way.

A GROUP OF MODERNS

SIR FRANCIS SHARP POWELL,
BARONET, M.P.

"Wigan's Grand Old Man"—he was affectionately called in his native place, which for twenty-five years and more he represented in Parliament. His work for education was one aspect only of a long and fruitful career.

As an Old Boy of Sedbergh it was said that he had done for that School, what no other Sedberghian, and probably no other Old Boy,

had done for his School. His gifts included school buildings, the gymnasium, the Powell Hall, the cricket field, the east window of the Chapel, the fives courts, and the workshop.

He was also an Old Boy of Wigan Grammar School, where the Scholarship which bears his name will ever keep his memory green.

He was one of the good fairies (a very substantial one !) who helped to transform the old Mining School into the Mining and Technical College, by waving over it a golden wand, and aiding the enterprise with a donation of £2,500. He was open-handed to many Wigan Schools, and especially to St. George's.

Young Wigan should never forget that he gave that Aladdin's Treasure House, the Boys' Reading Room. On the day of its opening in 1895, a boy returned thanks on behalf of the scholars in twenty-two Wigan Schools ; and he spoke for an ever-widening circle of happy and enraptured readers.

There was another great day, in 1910, when his friends invited him to be present at the unveiling of a statue of himself in Mesnes Park, Wigan. How proud were the Grammar School lads when he spoke specially to them, and reminded them that he was an Old Boy. Then the band played the air—"A fine Old English Gentleman." And whenever we pass by the statue, and see him there, smiling at the children and the flowers, the familiar words come back into our minds.

ALFRED HEWLETT

A great captain of industry, for long a commanding figure in the mining world, he perceived that more was needed than capital and muscular strength, if the industries of England were to prosper. Goodwill, for instance, hence his work for the Conciliation Board of the Coal Trade; and Sympathy, witness his help in founding a Relief Society for the widows and orphans of miners. And, moreover, Knowledge is required; hence Alfred Hewlett's ardent zeal for technical education.

The Wigan Mining and Mechanical School (founded 1858) was the pioneer institution of its sort in England. As chairman of the governors, Mr. Hewlett, in 1897 originated the happy idea of making it into a Mining and Technical College to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. A Wigan wag suggested that it would also mark the Black Diamond Jubilee of King Coal. It was an ambitious scheme, to raise £50,000; and meant much persistent work and generous giving. It was a proud and happy day in 1903, when Mr. Hewlett saw the Countess of Crawford unlock the gates and pronounce the building open; and free of debt, as he so earnestly desired. The College is a lasting monument to his forethought and leadership.

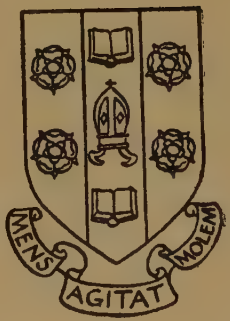
When he was made a freeman of the Borough of Wigan in 1901, the casket presented to him was embellished with three views in enamel, the College, flanked by the Kirkless Ironworks and the Crawford Colliery. On that day he spoke touchingly of the visions he had cherished for the town he loved. Some of them had come

true. And we know why: because he was a working visionary. He was not only a dreamer but a doer, translating noble thoughts into tangible realities.

JAMES DARLINGTON

Alfred Hewlett, of whom we have just spoken, was very happy in his friendships, and especially in the bond that linked him with his brother-in-law, James Darlington. Together they embarked upon many an industrial enterprise; and they were close partners in philanthropy. In 1874 they joined in giving new schools at Coppull Moor, with playgrounds and a teacher's residence. In this, foresight was displayed; for the district soon became a populous one. Mines were worked, houses were built, and the schools were enlarged. Long before this (in 1858) Mr. Darlington had led the way, in providing a fine school in Charnock Richard, adjacent to the collieries then being worked by his family. Again and again he gave generous help to other schools both in Lancashire and in Warwickshire. Hospital ward, almshouse, and Church, also witness to his devotion. "He regarded wealth less as a personal possession, than as a trust to be used in the service of God and man. Great-hearted, open-handed, genial, courteous, and accessible to the very humblest, he was an ideal master and an untiring benefactor. He loved to be a bridge-builder between the classes, by kind words and deeds a healer of the breach."*

* See PORTEUS: "The Life of James Darlington."



SCHOOL BADGES:

Manchester, Lancaster, Rossall, Chetham's Hospital.

SIR HENRY HIBBERT,
BARONET, M.P.

Few people familiar with the athletic figure of Sir Henry knew what physical disabilities he had to contend with in his early years. During a debate in the Lancashire County Council in 1926, when advocating the claims of crippled children, and speaking of the benefit that might result from sending them to the Ethel Hedley Orthopaedic Hospital, Sir Henry referred to his own experience. He related that from the age of eight to eleven years he walked on crutches, and went in splints from ankle to thigh from eight until twenty-one years old. It was owing to the patient care of a good mother that he was eventually cured.

Yet the crippled boy lived to be a strong man, won an honourable name in the world of commerce, and became a great educationalist. A life-long advocate of technical instruction, he secured for Chorley, his native town, the well-equipped Technical Building where the Grammar School is now housed.

As an expert in educational problems he was called upon to assist in framing the great Education Act of 1902. He was knighted in 1903 ; and made baronet in 1919, when the freedom of the City of London was conferred upon him. As Chairman of the Lancashire Education Committee from 1902 to 1921 ; then Chairman of the County Council for six years, and also as Member of Parliament for the Chorley Division, his advice and administrative ability were invaluable to his town, his county, and his country.

Many a poor scholar who made good at last, owed much to him; and obtained, through his interest and effort, the scholarship or bursary which enabled him "to breast the blows of circumstance." What he did was often forgotten, and sometimes never known. Behind the impersonal veil of committees, regulations, and resolutions, there was ever beating, in sympathy for the aspiring student, the warm heart of Sir Henry Hibbert.

LORD LEVERHULME

The name Lever should be dear to the scholars of Bolton-le-Moors Grammar School, for on three occasions a Lever has been a prominent benefactor. John Lever joined with other trustees in 1524 in purchasing a farm for the maintenance of a schoolmaster in Bolton; and the bounty of Robert Lever in 1642 has already been mentioned.

In 1902 Mr. William Hesketh Lever (afterwards Lord Leverhulme), the founder of Port Sunlight, gave a house for the master and other generous donations to augment the endowment. He had already contributed £5,000 to the rebuilding of the premises. This prince of commerce who cared for more than commerce, a lover of beautiful things, and a donor of them to school and town and nation, well deserves a place in this gallery of friends of the young.

A LANCASHIRE SCHOOL SONG*

O Lancashire, a witching spell
  Hast thou to make us love thee,
A charm in storied stream and fell,
  In seas around, and skies above thee.
The quaint grey town, the moorland height,
The Ribble Vale are my delight;
  Old scenes, old tales, old friends, conspire
  To make thee dear, O Lancashire.

For every school of every race,
  In near land or in far land,
Our county schools have set the pace;
  To founders rare we give the garland.
To Miller John and Bishop Hugh,
To Captain Bryan homage true!
  Good luck to all good schools befall,
  And here's to ours, the best of all!

May all Black Diamonds down below
  For long be worth the winning;
The shuttles run, the sirens blow,
  And cotton (like the world) keep spinning!
Where warmest hearths and hearts are found
May work and play and song abound.
  Good-speed to Lune and Irk and Wyre;
  Sing hey, sing ho, for Lancashire!

* Set to Music and published in leaflet form.

THE BEST FRIEND

Dean Colet, the friend of Erasmus, founded his great School at St. Paul's in 1509, and dedicated it to the Child Jesus. In the midst of the school, where it would be always in sight of teacher and scholar, he placed the statue of Christ: a reminder that one of the mightiest motives in education and charity springs from our religion. Through all the many-coloured web of the story of the schools runs the golden thread of devotion to Christ. He first fully revealed the value of the young. He gave the Children's Charter; and rebuked those who hindered or oppressed them. Service rendered to His little ones, he declared, is rendered unto Him; care for the young of the flock one chief proof of the shepherd's loyalty to the Lord of the Churches.

So while we speak of other friends, many of whom derived their zeal from the Master, we do not forget that there is One who deserves to be reverenced and loved as the best Friend of all.

COMMEMORATION HYMN

Tune: Bishopsgarth.

For gifts so great, what tribute rare
  Shall we responsive render?
What praise to match the bounteous care
  Of Founder and Befriender:
No wreath of bay or bloom we need;
  No breath of adulation;
In grateful thought and kindly deed
  We bring the best oblation.

For all who toiled, for all who taught,
  Who sowed—and went forth weeping,
May we, who reap where others wrought,
  Give thanks amid our reaping.
Great Source of good, of all that yet
  Is ours, but not by merit,
Forbid us lightly to forget
  The trust that we inherit.

Grant us to hold the lantern high
  In radiance far out-reaching;
In duteous lives to magnify
  All wise and noble teaching;
Knowledge to share, and truth esteem
  Beyond all earthly treasure:
Thus—only thus—may we redeem
  The debt we cannot measure.

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